and financial assistance for various developmental activities. The State Government has also established a Tea Development Board for reviving the old tea gardens in the State.

(c) The total area of the existing tea gardens in the State is 1068 hectares.

**New Foreign Trade Policy**

179. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce a new Foreign Trade Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the new policy is likely to be put in place; and

(c) whether, while formulating the policy, interests of the India's trading community would be kept in view so that they may not be deprived of a level playing field *vis-a-vis* the international business community operating in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c)Anew Foreign Trade Policy is under formulation and would be announced in August, 2004. The New Foreign Trade Policy is aimed at boosting exports, including agricultural exports and creating additional employment.

**Quantitative restrictions on iron ore, pig iron and sponge iron**

180. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is seriously considering of putting quantitative restrictions on iron ore, pig iron and sponge iron in view of the persistent shortage of supply in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering a raw material policy;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) the benefits to the domestic traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal